



*Placer County Air Pollution Control District  
Woodstove Replacement Incentive Program  
Handbook*

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## **Placer County Air Pollution Control District Mission Statement**

On April 13, 2000 the Board of Directors of the Placer County Air Pollution Control (District) adopted the following Mission Statement:

***The mission of the Placer County Air Pollution Control District is to manage the county's air quality in a manner to protect and promote public health by controlling and seeking reductions of air pollutants while recognizing and considering the economic and environmental impacts.***

**Among the Goals/Objectives of the District are:**

1. Regulate air pollutant emissions from stationary sources.
2. Mitigate effects of growth through quality planning measures.
3. Pool resources with other agencies, districts, and jurisdictions.
4. Market and promote the positive impacts the District is making on the air quality in the county.
5. Improve District business processes and internal operations so as to provide cost effective and quality service to the citizens and industry of Placer County.

### **Role of Rule 225, Wood Burning Appliances, in District's Mission**

As the temperatures begin to drop in the fall, the daylight hours grow shorter and the celebration of Thanksgiving and the holiday season unfolds, the first fire of the year crackles in the hearths and woodstoves of Placer County homes and businesses. As wonderful as it may be to enjoy a winter fire, risks to air quality and public health increase due to the burning of wood in winter months.

More so in winter months, Placer County's air contains particulate matter (PM), a mixture of small liquid droplets and solid particles that are suspended in the air, in levels deemed unhealthy by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (ARB). According to the EPA, health studies have linked exposure to PM, especially fine particles, to several significant health problems, including:

- Increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing;
- Decreased lung function;
- Aggravated asthma;
- Development of chronic bronchitis;
- Irregular heartbeat;
- Nonfatal heart attacks; and
- Premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

In November 2004, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted a list of control measures under Senate Bill 656 that could be used to reduce PM emissions in California air districts. Due to SB 656 and the need to reduce PM, the District amended existing Rule 225 to be County wide and to include the following conditions:

1. Prohibit the installation of new, permanently installed, indoor or outdoor, uncontrolled fireplaces in **new construction**, beginning on January 1, 2009,
2. Prohibit the installation of any new, permanently installed, indoor or outdoor, uncontrolled wood burning appliance in **existing developments**, beginning January 1, 2012
3. Require that all installations of any wood burning appliances be U.S. EPA Phase II certified, or equivalent
4. Require proper operation of all wood burning appliances
5. Require distribution of educational information about wood burning at point of sale of new wood burning appliances, beginning January 1, 2009
6. Prohibit burning of garbage and other items not intended for use as a fuel
7. Requires that all visible smoke from wood burning appliances not exceed a 20% opacity, except for startup
8. Require that all non-certified free standing wood stoves be rendered inoperable upon point-of-sale of real property, beginning January 1, 2012.

For a complete copy of Rule 225, go to [www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Air/Rules.aspx](http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Air/Rules.aspx).

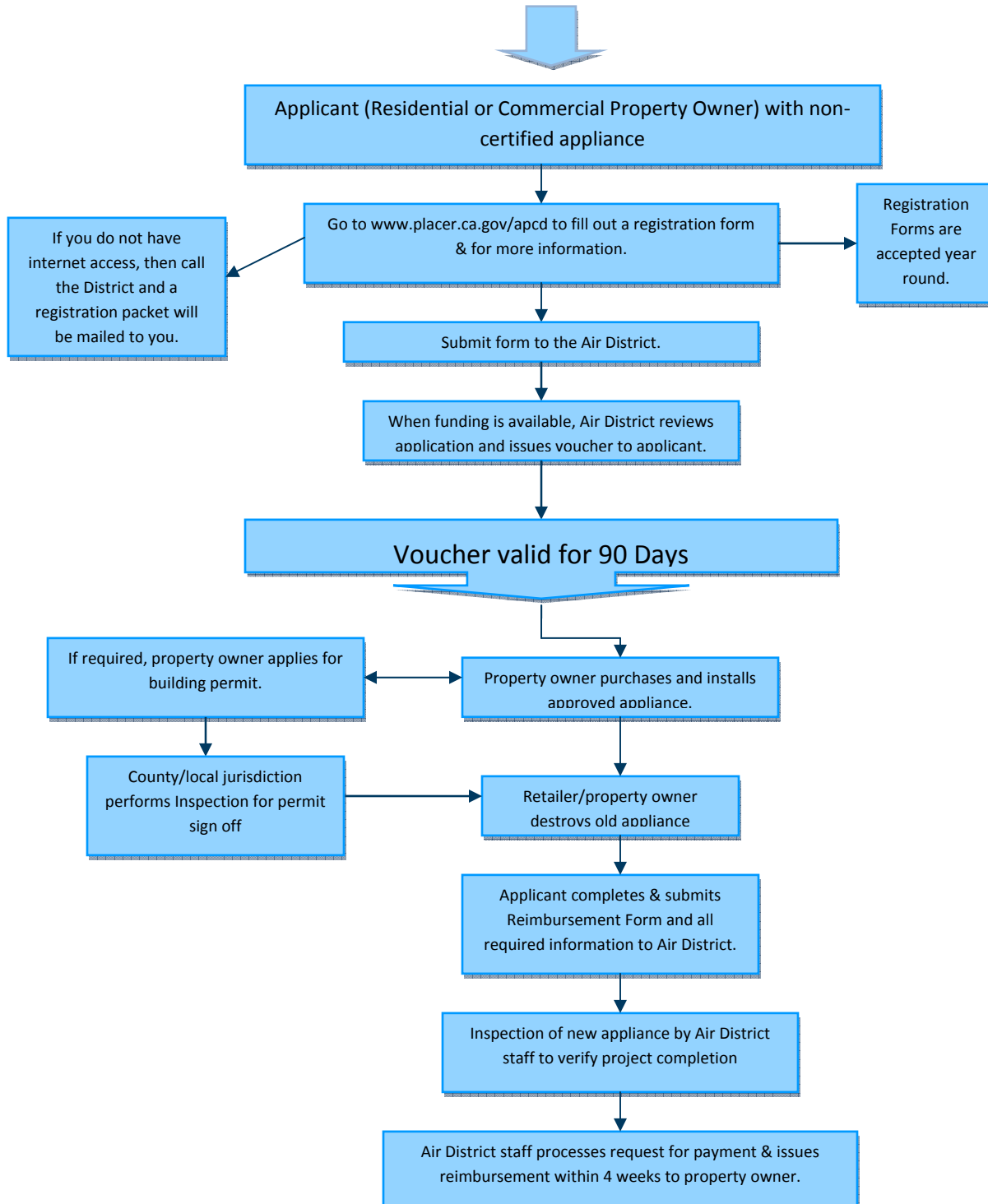
### **Program Definitions:**

1. **Appliance:** In this instance, any wood stove (free standing or zero clearance), fireplace insert (gas or wood), pellet stove, fire place or any other heating device associated with this program.
2. **Applicant:** The Applicant must be the legal owner of the property which contains the noncertified appliance being replaced by this program and have the legal authority to participate in this program.
3. **EPA Phase II:** Any wood burning appliance that meets current EPA emission standards for particulate matter. An EPA Phase II certified wood burning appliance must not exceed an emission rating of 7.5 grams per hour.
4. **Non-certified (uncontrolled):** Any appliance that does not meet the definition of an EPA Phase II certified appliance.
5. **Masonry Fireplace:** A brick or stone fire place that is not prefabricated or manufactured, typically with a sheet metal firebox.
6. **Render inoperable:** an appliance with at least a two inch hole in the fire box or to where the appliance is rendered permanently and irreversibly inoperable.
7. **Retailer:** In this instance, any retailer or vendor selling EPA certified Phase II wood burning appliances, gas appliances, or pellet stoves.
8. **Voucher:** A Form issued by the District to the Applicant which authorizes the Applicant to purchase a new appliance under this program and receive incentive funding.



# Wood Stove Replacement Program Overview

A program funded by the **Placer County Air Pollution Control District**



# About the Program

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## Property Owner Eligibility

The goal of the Burn Bright Burn Right Wood Stove Replacement Program is to encourage owners of residential and commercial property Countywide to replace non-EPA certified wood burning appliances with newer and cleaner burning EPA Phase II certified wood burning appliances, gas appliances, or pellet stoves. Replacing non-certified wood burning appliances with an EPA Phase II certified stove/insert, pellet stove, or gas stove will help to reduce particulate matter within the air and help the District maintain compliance with state and federal standards for PM.

**Rebate Amounts:** As an incentive to replace existing non-certified wood stoves or open hearth fireplaces, the District is offering up to:

- \$750 for Placer County property owners
- \$1500 for property owners at or below 60% of the Placer County median income

Each Applicant that applies for and receives incentive funding will be issued a 1099 Form at the end of the year. This means that the funds awarded to an Applicant is considered taxable income.

**Eligibility:** The rebates are available only to Placer County property owners with a currently installed non-certified wood burning appliance.

**Issuing of Vouchers:** Applications for registration can be submitted to the District year round and will be processed in the order received. For Fiscal year 2009-2010, the District will begin issuing vouchers for qualifying applicants until all budgeted funds have been used, beginning in August 2009. Once the funds have been used up, the voucher period will close and any applicant who submits an eligible registration packet after the fact will be put on a wait list until funds are next available. In this case, the District would notify the applicant of the wait. **The District will only issue a voucher if there is available funding.**

## Three Main Phases to the Program

Applicant Registers —→ Voucher Issued to Applicant —→ Applicant Reimbursed

## **General Guidelines**

### **Program Requirements for Property Owners and Retailers:**

1. The residence which contains a currently installed operational non-certified wood burning appliance must be located in Placer County.
2. The Applicant must be the legal owner of the property which contains the currently installed operational noncertified appliance being replaced by this program and have the legal authority to participate in this program.
3. Applicant is responsible for meeting **all** program requirements and for complying with his/her state/county/civic government and/or home owner association (if any) requirements in his/her area regarding local conditions, restrictions, codes, ordinances, rules, and regulations prior to installation.
4. New certified EPA Phase II wood stoves/inserts, pellet stoves, or gas stoves/insert (excluding gas logs) are allowed to be purchased and installed under this program.
5. All Forms must be either hand delivered or mailed to the District. No faxes or emails.
6. Applicant must give authorization to Placer County Air Pollution Control District staff to conduct all necessary on site inspections of the old appliance being replaced and of the new installed appliance, in order to verify that the requirements of this program have been met.
7. To be considered for a rebate voucher the Applicant must submit an original completed Registration Packet. Incomplete applications may lead to program disqualification.
8. Pending available funding and eligibility, a voucher will be issued for the purchase of a new EPA Phase II certified woodstove/insert, pellet stove, or a gas stove. A voucher will not be issued to an applicant that has already purchased a new appliance.
9. A voucher will expire 90 days after date of voucher issuance and it will only remain valid if all requirements of this program are met.
10. If an applicant receives a voucher at least twice and fails to follow through with the program, then the applicant is no longer qualified to participate in the program.
11. The new appliance may be bought at any retailer; however, all participating retailers must sign and agree to the program guidelines and the Retailer's Agreement Form at time of purchase.
12. Retailer agrees not to inflate appliance prices due to the vouchers issued under this program.
13. The property owner or retailer must certify proper disposal of the old appliance before Applicant can receive rebate check. The old appliance being replaced under this program must be kept on site prior to disposal for at least 30 days to allow for inspection by District staff.
14. Participating retailers are expected to help the Applicant properly understand the program requirements during all stages of this program.
15. The old appliance being replaced under this program cannot be resold, given away, or salvaged. It must be rendered inoperable.
16. Requests for Payment that are mailed must be post marked by the expiration date of the voucher.
17. The District will process rebate payments within 30 days of receiving a complete final request for payment.
18. The rebate is paid directly to the Applicant to go towards the cost of the new appliance. The rebate will be issued after all the requirements of this program have been met.
19. Vouchers cannot be transferred.

20. Applicant waives any claims against the Placer County Air Pollution Control District arising out of the installation and/or use of the heating appliance funded through this program.
21. This program is “first come first serve” and incentive funds are not guaranteed.
22. The District makes no representations regarding retailers, manufacturers, dealers, contractors, materials, and workmanship.
23. Fraud or misrepresentation will result in automatic disqualification or return of voucher funds to the District if funding has already been issued.
24. Voucher amount cannot exceed the amount of new appliance purchase.
25. Voucher amount cannot be applied to installation costs, stove piping, or any other expense accrued due to the participation in this program.
26. **This program is not retroactive. An Applicant must receive a voucher from the District prior to appliance purchase.**
27. Only one appliance upgrade per property per year.
28. The District is not responsible for items lost or destroyed in the mail.

### **Low Income Household Qualifications**

For households that are at or below 60% of median income in Placer County, the District may provide further incentive amounts (up to \$1500) to assist in appliance purchases.

The following are Income Standards based on family size:

		Number of Persons in Household							
County	Income Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Placer County	60% Limit (of median income)	<b>\$60,600</b>	\$34,920	<b>\$39,200</b>	\$43,680	<b>\$47,160</b>	\$50,640	<b>\$54,180</b>	\$57,660

***NOTE: These Income limits are updated annually and subject to change***

In order to be considered for additional financial assistance, Applicants must provide a copy of their most recent federal tax return, in order to verify gross annual income.

NOTE: Additional discounts may be available from the manufacturer or retailer. Check with participating retailers.

### **Building Permit and Inspection Requirements**

The homeowner or commercial property owner (Applicant) may be required to obtain a building permit when replacing a wood burning appliance. If a permit is required, the Applicant should contact the Building Department in the local jurisdiction where the installation of a new stove is taking place to ensure all Building code requirements as well as necessary inspections are complied with. The County or local jurisdiction may require additional permit and inspection fees related to the installation of the wood stove or other appliance funded through this program.

An inspection by District staff may also be necessary in order to verify the type of appliance an applicant has or to verify compliance with program requirements. Applicants and retailers will be required to allow District staff authorization for routine inspections.



## **Disposal of Old Appliance**

All appliances replaced under this program must be rendered inoperable. This requirement excludes masonry fireplaces, which cannot be easily destroyed. Proper appliance destruction can consist of knocking at least a two inch hole through the firebox and/or taking it to a recycler/dump to be recycled. This can be done by either the Retailer or Applicant. In either case, the old appliance must be made available for inspection for up to 30 days, and be labeled with the voucher number. If a Retailer wishes not to keep the old appliance around, then the door, labeled with the voucher number will be sufficient. If an Applicant is disposing of the old appliance, then the entire appliance must be made available for 30 days for inspection.

## **Retailer Obligations:**

Heating appliance retailers who sell EPA Phase II certified woodstoves/inserts, gas appliances, and pellet stoves are eligible to participate in the District's Burn Bright Burn Right program.

When an Applicant is issued a voucher, a Retailer Certification Form is provided with it. At the time of Appliance sale, the Applicant is to provide to the Retailer the Form. The Form is to be filled out at time of sale or any time thereafter. Additional Retailer Certification Forms can be downloaded off the District's website at [www.placer.ca.gov/apcd](http://www.placer.ca.gov/apcd) . Without a signed Retailer Certification Form, an Applicant will not receive reimbursement. There are no pre-registration requirements for retailers in this program.

Failure to meet program criteria and guidelines will disqualify any or all of the retailer's customers from receiving a rebate.

## **Funding Sources:**

### **Woodstove Replacement Incentive Program**

The District will initially provide rebates to eligible property owners in amounts up to \$750 or \$1500 per appliance per property owner, limited to one appliance replacement per property per year. These rebate incentive amounts are subject to change annually based on demand for vouchers and available funding.

### **Housing Rehabilitation: USDA Rural Development Loans and Grants**

The USDA Rural Development Department (RDD) has a program that may help you get the money you need to repair your home. If you are low income and own the home that you live in, you may qualify for a loan of up to \$20,000 to make needed repairs or improvements. The interest rate is one percent, so you pay as little as \$92 per month if you borrow the maximum of \$20,000. In addition, if you are 62 years old or older, you may qualify for a once in a lifetime grant of up to \$7,500 to remove health or safety hazards from your home. For more information about the program, including what adjustments may be made to your gross income, please contact Wanda Thompson at the RDD office at (530) 885-7081, Ext. 4.

### **Financial Assistance Programs for those who qualify for Additional Financial Assistance:**

Additional grant funding or low interest loans to cover costs of installation, inspections, and other costs of replacing non-certified woodstoves/inserts and fireplaces may become available through many different local agencies. The Placer County Redevelopment Agency may provide additional grant funds and/or connect applicants with other organizations who may offer additional financial assistance through programs such as Project Go and Seniors First. The City of Colfax and the Sierra Economic Development Corporation is another resource for applicants to potentially locate low interest loan and financial assistance services for those that qualify. Look below for agency contact information.

# Contact Information

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## Placer County Air Pollution Control District

110 Maple Street  
Auburn, CA 95603  
(530) 745-2316  
<http://www.placer.ca.gov/apcd>

## Building Departments - For Building Permit and Inspection Information

### Placer County Auburn Office

3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220  
Auburn CA 95603  
530-745-3010

### Placer County Tahoe Office

565 W. Lake Blvd.  
Tahoe City, CA 96145  
530-581-6200

### Auburn Building Department

1225 Lincoln Way, Room 3  
Auburn, CA 95603  
530 823-4211, ext. 3

### Roseville Public Works

311 Vernon Street  
Roseville, CA 95678  
916 774-5332

### Colfax Building Department

33 South Main Street  
Colfax, CA 95713  
530 346-2313

### Lincoln Building Division

600 Sixth Street  
Lincoln, CA 95648  
916 434-2470

### Rocklin Building Department

3970 Rocklin Road  
CA 95677  
916 625-5120  
916 625-5195

### Placer County Redevelopment Agency

3091 County Center Drive, Suite 260 Rocklin,  
Auburn, CA 95603  
Joyce Pope  
530-745-3168

### City of Colfax

Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program  
(530) 823-4703

### Sierra Economic Development Corp.

Micro Lending Program  
(530) 823-4703

## United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (504 Low Interest Loans)

251 Auburn Ravine Road, Suite 107  
Auburn, CA 95603  
530 885-6505 530 823-5504 FAX  
530 792-5848 TDD  
Wanda Thompson  
[wanda.thompson@ca.usda.gov](mailto:wanda.thompson@ca.usda.gov)